

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report builds on the work completed in Stage 3. It provides the results of a prioritization exercise undertaken by the WG, for a refined list of 52 solutions from stage 3. The report also discusses implementation considerations and presents the human resource, infrastructure, project and learning requirements for each solution. Additionally, a roadmap integration table is presented, which highlights the expected benefits, to be derived from each solution, and the synergistic relationship that exist among solutions recommended by WG4 and those proposed by other working groups.

The top 11 prioritized solutions, aimed at enhancing the quality and efficiency of evidence synthesis methods and processes presented in this report are:

1. **Pilot Evidence Response Teams:** These teams, trained in agile methods, will be embedded in key institutions to deliver rapid syntheses and respond to urgent requests.
2. **Harmonization of Quality Standards:** Establishing a unified framework for quality standards across various sectors to ensure consistency in evidence synthesis.
3. **Incentivizing Cross-Sectoral Learning and Collaboration:** Promoting joint funding calls for evidence synthesis projects that require collaboration among various sectors and establishing cross-sectoral communities of practices.
4. **Monitoring System for Ongoing LSRs:** Developing a centralized database to track ongoing living systematic reviews (LSRs) to prevent effort duplication.
5. **Global Citizen Partner Panel:** Creating a panel to enhance citizen engagement in the synthesis development process.
6. **Methodological innovation in use of ‘grey literature’:** Creating a taxonomy of types of grey literature, providing guidelines and repositories for the effective use of grey literature in evidence synthesis, developing tools for extracting data.
7. **Assessment Tools for Evidence Certainty:** Developing improved tools to evaluate the certainty of evidence from various studies, particularly qualitative and observational research.
8. **Tools for Layered Evidence Dissemination:** These improved tools will allow decision-makers to interact with evidence and query findings.
9. **Modular Agile Synthesis Toolkit:** Developing a toolkit that provides methodological approaches tailored to different urgency levels and decision-making contexts.
10. **Standardized Methods and Tools for translating findings from LES into local contexts.**
11. **Academy for Evidence Synthesis:** Building a global academy to centralize training and resources for evidence synthesis. Strengthening existing structures and progress in methodological rigour.

INTRODUCTION

In the Stage 3 report, seventy-two (72) solutions were proposed to strengthen evidence synthesis methods and process innovation. These solutions were spread across eight capabilities: (i) supporting use of agile evidence-synthesis methods; (ii) co-production with citizen partners; (iii) locating the evidence; (iv) data extraction; (v) synthesis; (vi) reporting and dissemination; (vii) quality assurance; and (viii) application of approaches across sectors. Based on feedback from the stage 3 open consultation, reframing and consolidation was done, resulting in a revised list of 52 solutions. **In this report we identified the most impactful of these 52 solutions for inclusion in the ESIC package of options that funders may wish to invest in and/or leverage.** We briefly describe implementation considerations as well as human resource, infrastructure, and training needs for each solution.

METHODS

As a first step we used the impact-effort matrix to prioritise solutions. WG4 members worked in small groups to rate the impact and effort of solutions linked to specific capabilities on a Likert scale from 1 (low effort/impact) to 10 (high effort/impact). Impact was defined as the magnitude of benefit each solution will bring upon implementation; and effort as the resources (time, money, manpower, etc.) required for development and implementation. Benefit was defined as the production of timely, relevant, and cost-efficient syntheses that address critical 'policy scale' questions (the WG4 vision). WG members first rated solutions individually, documenting their justifications, before convening in small groups to discuss and reach consensus on final ratings. We then mapped the proposed solutions onto an impact/effort matrix (Appendix 1) and identified those with the highest impact scores (8 or above), which included 27 solutions. To further narrow the solutions, we first combined related solutions, which resulted in a list of 18 solutions. We then asked WG4 members to review and vote on the final list of top '10' solutions. This resulted in 11 prioritized solutions presented in this report (Table 1).

For each of the 11 prioritized solutions, the WG deliberated on the implementation considerations as well as human resources, infrastructure and training needs to implement each solution (Table 1). The expected outcomes and indicators of success were also identified for each solution (Appendix 2).

For this report, we excluded approaches that significantly overlapped with other WGs and were already prioritized by them. However, these are still presented in the impact/effort matrix in Appendix 1.

PRIORITISED SOLUTIONS

The 11 prioritized solutions are listed in Figure 1, mapped to the '[SHOW ME](#)' the evidence principles, which are key to achieving the desired ESIC transformation.

Figure 1: Prioritized solutions recommended for inclusion in the menu of options for funder investment, aligned to the SHOW ME the evidence features.

Solutions	S Support systems locally that use many forms of research to help address local priorities	H Harmonized efforts globally that make it easier to learn from others around the world.	O Open-science approaches that make it the norm to build on what others have done	W Waste-reduction efforts that make the most of investments in evidence support and in research	M Measured communications that clarify what we know from existing evidence and with what caveats	E Equity and efficiency in all aspects of this work
Methodological innovation and tools for translating findings from LES to local contexts	✓					✓
Methodological innovation in use of 'grey literature'	✓			✓		✓
Methodological innovation in assessing certainty of evidence	✓	✓			✓	
Harmonise minimum quality standards for different types of synthesis		✓	✓			
Strengthen and build those infrastructures that support methodological rigour		✓				
Incentivize and enhance cross-sectoral collaboration		✓				✓
Database of ongoing LES		✓	✓	✓		
Global panel of citizen partners		✓				✓
Develop tools for layered approach to evidence dissemination					✓	✓
Co-produced tool-kit to support dialogue between evidence producers and policy-makers and commissioners	✓	✓				
Pilot "Evidence Response Teams" trained in agile methods and embedded in key institutions	✓	✓				✓

The following requirements for each solution are described In Table 1:

- (1) **Implementation considerations:** Aspects to ensure the solution's successful operationalization or roll-out.
- (2) **People:** Profiles of individuals needed to execute the solution, including number, experience, education, expertise etc.
- (3) **Infrastructure:** Tools, technologies, or platforms needed to successfully implement the solution.
- (4) **Projects:** Short-term time-limited activities that generate output but are necessary to accomplish or support the long-term implementation of the solution.
- (5) **Learning:** Training, sharing and convening needs that would be incurred to develop the solution or disseminate it for wider adoption.

The hashtags in the table correspond to the solution's number in the impact/effort matrix (Appendix 1).
The location bands are defined as follows:

- Band 1:** Global South – low and lower middle-income country
- Band 2:** Global South - high and upper middle-income country
- Band 3:** Global North

Table 1: Eleven prioritized solutions along with descriptions of people, infrastructure, project, and learning needs, and other considerations for implementation

	Solution	Implementation considerations	People	Infrastructure	Projects	Learning
1	#2 Pilot “ Evidence Response Teams ” trained in agile methods and embedded in key institutions (ministries, NGOs) to deliver syntheses within days/weeks of a request)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating mechanisms • Identify/ map institutions for piloting the concept • Policy anchoring • Develop training programs and material • Roll out training • Monitoring, evaluation and learning • Scale up of the program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior (Band 1, 2 and 3) for program design • Senior and Mid-tier (Band 1, 2 and 3) for training • Junior (Band 1, 2 and 3) for implementation within institutions • All levels for scale up • M&E experts for evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Management System • Synthesis support tools/ infrastructure • Access to evidence repositories • Cloud based word/Google docs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional mapping • Developing training material • Developing online learning platform • Project pilot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short course (Band 1, 2 and 3) • CPD (Band 1, 2 and 3) • Regional peer learning and convening (Band 1, 2 and 3)
2	#50 + #51 Harmonise minimum quality standards or framework for different types of LES/synthesis , applicable across sectors to harmonize quality expectations (e.g., consensus panel develops a quality checklist). This will be underpinned by a unified comprehensive taxonomy and framework for evidence syntheses. This will include expansion of existing standards and frameworks to different sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a cross-sector consensus panel for quality standards • Map existing quality frameworks across sectors • Develop a unified taxonomy for evidence synthesis methods • Create a minimum quality checklist applicable to all sectors • Adapt and expand existing standards to new sectors • Coordinate endorsement of standards by key institutions • Guidance for how frequently searches should be repeated (topic dependent) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior (Band 1, 2, 3) experts to chair panels and lead framework design • Mid-tier (Band 1, 2, 3) methodologists to draft standards and taxonomy • Junior (Band 1, 2, 3) researchers to gather and review existing standards • Senior and mid-tier (Band 1,2 and 3) to champion adoption of standards • Information specialist/librarian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central repository for unified quality standards and taxonomy • Online collaboration platform for consensus development • Database of existing standards frameworks (for reference) • Standardized quality checklist and guidance documents • Version control system for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of current standards and framework • Consensus workshops across sectors • Develop and pilot a harmonized quality checklist and taxonomy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-sector training workshops (Band 1, 2, 3) • Webinars and online modules (Band 1, 2, 3) • CPD programs integrating the harmonized quality framework (Band 1, 2, 3)

	Solution	Implementation considerations	People	Infrastructure	Projects	Learning
				updating standards		
3	<p>#8 + #7</p> <p>Incentivize and enhance cross-sectoral learning and collaboration through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - joint funding calls for evidence synthesis for multi-sectoral projects focused on critical policy issues where teams from different sectors would have to collaborate towards a common outcome - Establishing cross-sectoral communities of practice and a global network of multidisciplinary evidence synthesis methodologists to share best practices and facilitate cross-sectoral learning and continuous improvements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish joint multi-sector funding mechanisms and partnerships • Create a secretariat to coordinate cross-sector collaboration • Issue guidelines for multi-sector evidence synthesis proposals • Launch cross-sector communities of practice and networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior (Band 1, 2, 3) to advocate for joint funding initiatives • Mid-tier (Band 1, 2, 3) researchers to coordinate communities of practice • Network coordinators (Mid-tier, Band 1, 2, 3) to facilitate global knowledge exchange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online collaboration platform • Joint funding portal Knowledge management and sharing system • Cross sectorial conference/ symposia focused on methodological issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot a joint funding call on a multi-sectoral policy issue • Create a directory of multidisciplinary evidence experts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short courses (Band 1, 2, 3) • Mentorship programs (Band 1, 2 and 3) • CPD (Band 1, 2 and 3) • Peer learning networks (Band 1, 2 and 3)
4	<p>#14</p> <p>Establish a system/database to monitor ongoing LSRs to avoid duplication of effort.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with existing review registries or create a new platform • Define standard reporting requirements for registering ongoing LSRs • Set up a central team to manage and update the LSR database • Implement quality control and governance for the system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior (Band 1, 2 and 3) leadership to champion and oversee the LSR registry • Mid-tier IT professionals (Band 1, 2, 3) to develop and maintain the database • Evidence synthesis experts (Band 1, 2 and 3) to advise on content and standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centralized online searchable registry • APIs to facilitate integration with existing databases and repositories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repository development and pilot • APIs development • Global registry launch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training webinars (Band 1, 2, 3) • User guides and FAQs for the registry
5	<p>#19</p> <p>Establish a global panel of citizen partners, with regional /sub-regional representation. The panel will operationalize the ESIC “Call to Action: Putting evidence at the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define panel governance structure (global panel with regional sub-panels) • Recruit and train citizen members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior (Band 1, 2 and 3) to lead the global citizen panel • Mid-tier regional facilitators (Band 1, 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online platform for panel meetings and discussions (multilingual support) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global panel setup Orientation and training program for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops for citizens on evidence synthesis basics (Band 1, 2 and 3)

	Solution	Implementation considerations	People	Infrastructure	Projects	Learning
	center of everyday life of citizens” and strengthen the relationship between citizens and research to facilitate participation in the different phases of synthesis production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish processes for citizen input at each stage of evidence synthesis • Develop terms of reference aligning with “Call to Action” objectives • Integrate panel activities with research institutions and policy decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and 3) to manage sub-regional panels • Citizen representatives (Band 1, 2, 3) serving as panel members across regions • Training experts (Mid-tier) to build citizens’ capacity to engage with evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools for gathering and managing citizen feedback • Knowledge translation resources to bridge technical gaps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> new citizen panelists • Pilot projects where citizen panelists co-produce or review evidence syntheses • Guidelines development for effective citizen engagement • MEL of the panel’s initial impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer learning sessions among citizen members (Band 1, 2 and 3) • Training for evidence synthesis specialists on collaborating with citizen partners (Bands 1, 2 and 3)
6	<p>#24 + #25</p> <p>Support the integration of grey literature into evidence synthesis including through a package of work including: (1) Develop guidance and recommendations on the types and appropriate use of grey literature for different review questions and contexts. (2) Maintained repositories of relevant grey literature sources. (3) Identify and categorise types of grey literature, using those most appropriate for the review’s purpose – (Taxonomy- policy documents, clinical guidance, regulatory data, NGO reports, conference abstracts, institutional repositories, formal/informal, institutional/non-institutional). (4)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form a grey literature working group across sectors • Collaborate with grey literature producers (NGOs, government bodies) to integrate their outputs • Policy support and buy-in for using grey literature in evidence synthesis • Promote open-access policies for grey literature to ensure longevity of sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior evidence synthesis experts (Band 1, 2 and 3) to lead development of grey literature guidelines • Mid-tier information specialists (Band 1, 2, 3) to manage repositories • Junior researchers (Band 1, 2 and 3) to gather grey literature sources and pilot integration methods • Technical experts (Mid-tier) for developing search tools for grey literature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey literature repositories • Enhanced search and text-mining tools. • Standard templates and software for reporting grey literature usage in syntheses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance development on grey literature inclusion in reviews • Grey literature database/repository development • Taxonomy and classification development • Reporting standards for documenting grey literature use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops on grey literature search and appraisal (Band 1, 2, 3) • Peer network for exchanging experiences using grey literature in syntheses (Band 1, 2, 3) • CPD courses for librarians and researchers (Band 1, 2, 3)

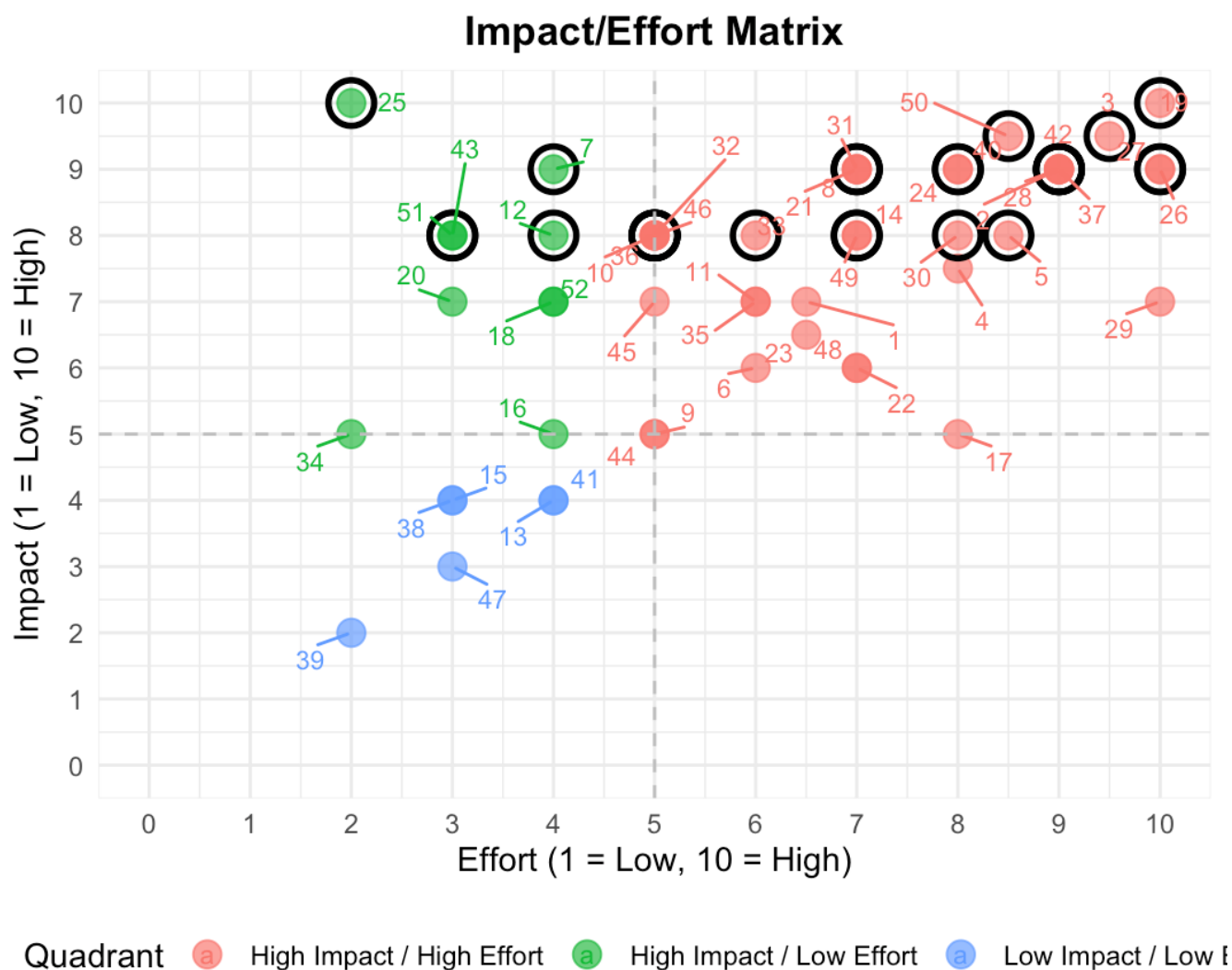
	Solution	Implementation considerations	People	Infrastructure	Projects	Learning
	<p>Clear guidance on how to report the use of grey literature. (5) Data in searchable formats – currently, locating relevant information in lengthy government reports can be burdensome, especially when their relevance is uncertain. (6) Reporting standards for the use of grey literature, including source identification and methods of data extraction (which sources, why and how); 7) Encourage those who produce/commission reports (grey literature reports) to display an open access license to continue on-line presence of reports (so pdf isn't lost) and appropriate</p>					
7	<p>#33 + #49</p> <p>Develop and disseminate tools to better assess certainty of the evidence for observational studies, qualitative evidence, and mixed methods studies building on current frameworks to address its inherent subjectivity and diversity. This would address current gaps in such tools. In some cases, e.g. qualitative evidence, the tools exist (e.g. CERQual) but may need better dissemination across sectors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-sectoral Team/steering group to coordinate /lead development of new tools or adaptation of existing tools • Advocacy for use of tools, including coordinating training on how to use the tool. • Global team to ensure coverage and application across geographic regions • Technology to support tool development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior methodologists (Bands 1/2/3) to develop/update tools • Mid-tier researchers and technical experts (Bands 1/2/3) to support the development/updating of tools and support advocacy efforts • Mid-tier project manager (Bands 1/2/3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual place for meetings/coordination • Software licence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess gaps in existing tools, • Validate new tools • Dissemination of tool(s) 	Master's or PhD students
8	<p>#40 + #42</p> <p>Develop/improve tools that support a layered approach to disseminating evidence, including</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multisectoral team(s) to further develop online platforms and other tools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior and mid-tier researchers to develop tools (bands 1/2/3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online platforms/software to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of existing tools and gaps 	-

	Solution	Implementation considerations	People	Infrastructure	Projects	Learning
	online platforms for decision-makers to interact with evidence (e.g., querying specific findings or exploring uncertainty).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Might need linked platforms – for different sectors. • Platform requires maintenance and updating – in terms of technology as well as people. • Might require updating based on usability feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior technical experts (Bands 1/2/3) to support online platform development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the function • Virtual space for meetings/coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation of existing approaches to different sectors • Assess usability of platforms by decisionmakers 	
9	<p>#12</p> <p>Collate, curate and standardise methods to support the appropriate use of evidence synthesis to address policymakers' needs, through closer working between policymakers and evidence producers and the development of a modular agile synthesis toolkit. This would comprise an interactive menu of methodological approaches to support the timely and context-specific use of agile evidence synthesis, tailored to different types of questions, levels of urgency, and available resources (i.e. tiered models tailored to different urgency levels and decision-making contexts). It would also include guidance for rapid and living reviews, policy briefs, and evidence summaries tailored to time-sensitive contexts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global multisectoral team to coordinate collation of existing methods and toolkits and consolidate guidance • Broad consultation on the toolkit and user friendliness, across different sectors • Maintenance of the platform where toolkit hosted will be needed, including updates based on user reports/feedback • Awareness raising and promotion of the toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior evidence synthesis experts (Bands 1/2/3) to oversee collation of methods • Mid-tier and junior researchers (Bands 1/2/3) to support the process and help maintain it up to date • Senior technical experts (Bands 1/2/3) to develop the platforms/online tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platform to host the interactive toolkit freely accessible • Virtual spaces for meeting/coordination • AI licenses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collating and consolidating guidance • Develop platform to host guidance • Awareness raising/training on how to use toolkit 	
10	# 43 + #16 + #18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multisectoral teams to consolidate methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior evidence synthesis experts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Software license 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardization of 	Dissemination of written and

	Solution	Implementation considerations	People	Infrastructure	Projects	Learning
	<p>Methods and tools for translating findings of LES to local contexts and disseminating findings from LES to support evidence use in policy making. approaches include standardization of approaches to contextualization, developing supports/ data/ models/ frameworks to support. Developing Guidelines for plain language summaries for LES. to ensure contextualization can be done, it is important to foreground gender and inclusion in LES methods. This means being sensitive to gender and inclusion in the team composition, the sources of evidence and the data extracted from the evidence</p>	<p>and develop/expand tools for contextualization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory group on equity • Advocacy of tools • Expansion of tools across sectors 	<p>(Bands 1/2/3) to develop/expand tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-tier and junior researchers (Bands 1/2/3) to support the development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual space for meeting and coordination • Other (specify): editorial input, equity advisory. 	<p>approaches to contextualization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines for plain language summaries for LES • User testing of tools 	<p>published guidelines (Band 1)</p>
11	<p>#5 + #10</p> <p>Strengthen existing structures and methods in place to support evidence synthesis through an Academy for Evidence Synthesis, which can become a central hub for building capacity globally. (WG5) and maintaining funding to key organisations that contribute to foundations of quality and rigour for evidence synthesis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical and/or virtual hub for Global academy of ES that would include researchers across globe to • Shared methods for different types of ES (drawing on previous solutions) • Draw on existing available training/make this accessible to all • Certification programmes for trainers and trainees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Bands 1/2/3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Software license • Virtual space for meeting and coordination • New hardware • Hardware upgrades • Maintenance contracts • Other (specify): suitable location for main hub/admin? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short courses and other training opportunities (Band 1 and 2)

	Solution	Implementation considerations	People	Infrastructure	Projects	Learning
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to existing training, e.g. online courses 		

APPENDIX 1 – IMPACT-EFFORT MATRIX



	Solutions	Impact	Effort	Overlap with WG	Justification (Provided where the WG felt it was important to indicate)
Capability 1: Infrastructure and methods to support rigorous, agile and rapid responses					
1	Free and open access to collaborative evidence synthesis platforms that facilitate collaboration among researchers enabling them to work together more efficiently and effectively across all geographical and economic regions.	7	6.5	n/a	
2	Pilot “Evidence Response Teams” trained in agile methods and embedded in key institutions (ministries, NGOs) to deliver	9	9	n/a	

	Solutions	Impact	Effort	Overlap with WG	Justification (Provided where the WG felt it was important to indicate)
	syntheses within days/weeks of a request.				
3	Ensure seamless integration with various data resources (such as databases, websites, and platforms) to enable automated literature searching and retrieval. This can better connect with automated literature screening and analysis, facilitating the automatic generation of evidence synthesis results. Ideally, when a PICO question is posed, the corresponding evidence synthesis results could be visually presented.	9.5	9.5	WG3	Sounds fantastic, however I think will be difficult as these appears to be automation of most of the review process once the Q is established. Searching alone of these various sources will be a challenge. (EA). This is ideal situation, however, need some efforts to prepare an algorithm for automation of context specific Ai tools
4	Optimize the use of open data, AI tools, and demand-side engagement. By integrating technologies such as AI for faster evidence searching, selection, and summarization, while ensuring ethical and technical standards, we can significantly streamline the process.	7.5	8	WG3	AI (generative) can only be as ethical as the data that is used to train it, ensuring ethical standards may be difficult I think (EA). Agree with above justification
5	Build an Academy for Evidence Synthesis. It can become a central hub for building capacity globally.	8	8.5	WG5	Methods that will form part of the modules to be developed through the methods group suggestions
6	Create a community of practice and feedback system to continuously assess what works, share lessons learned, and improve evidence generation and use in real time.	6	6	WG2	
7	Establish cross-sectoral communities of practice and a global network of multidisciplinary evidence synthesis methodologists to share best practices and facilitate cross-sectoral learning and continuous improvements.	9	4	n/a	To build cross-sectoral learnings and adaptations of methods, bringing together methodologists from different sectors would create a platform for methods discussions and adoption. To implement this, we need a comprehensive list of methodologists across different sectors, understand their unique interests and organise them into communities of practice. This would be coupled with creating opportunities for engagement and discussion to develop/ adopt / improve synthesis methods.

	Solutions	Impact	Effort	Overlap with WG	Justification (Provided where the WG felt it was important to indicate)
8	Incentivize cross-sectoral collaborations through initiatives such as joint funding calls for evidence synthesis for multi-sectoral projects focused on critical policy issues. This will encourage intersectoral collaborations and cross-sector learning as teams from different sectors would have to collaborate towards a common outcome	9	7	n/a	Incentivization is a major driver of change. However, creating incentives such as joint funding calls will need the availability of funds and a buy in by funders which can be a rate limiting step.
9	Further coordinate and develop crowd sourcing methods	5	5	n/a	
10	Maintain and strengthen existing foundations of quality and rigour for evidence synthesis through continuous funding to key organisations – The Cochrane and Campbell Collaborations and JBI have provided leadership and coordination of agreed standards. Transformative change should not undermine those processes and methods that are globally recognised as leading and setting gold standards in the methods of evidence synthesis.	8	5	n/a	
11	Synthesis decision trees to guide appropriate method selection based on question type, evidence availability, and intended use. [from capab 5] Rather than single ‘magnum-opus’ syntheses, it may be worth considering a more layered or modular approach—such as aggregating multiple smaller, well-scoped syntheses, as part of providing actionable findings for broader outcome level policy priorities. This may be more effective in maintaining both relevance and manageability	7	6	n/a	

	Solutions	Impact	Effort	Overlap with WG	Justification (Provided where the WG felt it was important to indicate)
12	Collate, curate and standardise methods to support the appropriate use of evidence synthesis to address policymakers' needs, through closer working between policymakers and evidence producers and the development of a modular agile synthesis toolkit. This would comprise an interactive menu of methodological approaches to support the timely and context-specific use of agile evidence synthesis, tailored to different types of questions, levels of urgency, and available resources (i.e. tiered models tailored to different urgency levels and decision-making contexts). It would also include guidance for rapid and living reviews, policy briefs, and evidence summaries tailored to time-sensitive contexts.	8	4		
13	Create standards for reporting living protocols as well as living reviews	4	4	n/a	
14	Establish a system/database to monitor ongoing LSRs to avoid duplication of effort.	8	7	n/a	
15	Guidance for thresholds for updating reviews	4	3	n/a	<p>There are different drivers for updating reviews, with the number of new publications being the most followed. This guidance would consider what should ideally be the minimum requirements for updating reviews.</p> <p>The effort is rated low as we would be building on existing guidance for updating reviews, and would not require many resources, mostly being time.</p> <p>The impact is also rated at 4 as this would not have a significant change in the methods and approaches of evidence synthesis, although it would reduce resource waste through more frequent updates.</p>

	Solutions	Impact	Effort	Overlap with WG	Justification (Provided where the WG felt it was important to indicate)
16	Methods and tools for translating findings to local contexts. Standardise approaches to contextualization and develop supports/ data/ models/ frameworks to support contextualization of LES to support evidence use in policy making.	5	4	n/a	
17	Build systems to access administrative data (maintaining privacy and government autonomy over the data) that can be used to contextualize evidence	5	8	n/a	Ideally has a dependency on WG2, keep it in WG4 I'm uncertain how useful "administrative data" will be for contextualising (EA)
18	Foreground gender and inclusion in LES methods. This means being sensitive to gender and inclusion in the team composition, the sources of evidence and the data extracted from the evidence	7	4		It is ideal to be sensitive to gender and inclusion in team composition. However, how this reflects in sources of evidence and the data extracted from the evidence is not clear.
Capability 2: Co-production with citizen partners					
19	A global panel of citizen partners, with regional /sub-regional representation. The panel will operationalize the ESIC "Call to Action: Putting evidence at the center of everyday life of citizens" and strengthen the relationship between citizens and research to facilitate participation in the different phases of synthesis production.	10	10	n/a	
20	Review of Methods Guidance study, Development Guidance and Practical online Resources. This study will conduct a review of existing evidence synthesis co-production methods guidance to identify gaps that need to be improved. A practical online resource designed to support the meaningful engagement of citizens and other partners in the co-production of evidence syntheses. It will be tailored to accommodate varying levels of literacy and digital access, ensuring access by evidence synthesis producers from diverse regions—regardless of technological infrastructure.	7	3	n/a	
21	Develop and maintain repositories of evidence from citizens.	9	7	n/a	

	Solutions	Impact	Effort	Overlap with WG	Justification (Provided where the WG felt it was important to indicate)
22	Develop standardized monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the depth, quality and impact of citizen involvement.	6	7		
23	Develop a common terminology of co-production and co-design values and principles that should be applied in evidence synthesis distinguishing between informational, consultative, and co-productive involvement, and link them to different stages of evidence synthesis.	6.5	6.5	n/a	
Capability 3: Locating the Evidence					
24	<p>Grey literature is an area of urgent methodological innovation. The term encompasses a very wide body of work. We propose the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop guidance and recommendations on the types and appropriate use of grey literature for different review questions and contexts. • Maintained repositories of relevant grey literature sources • Identify and categorise types of grey literature, using those most appropriate for the review's purpose – (Taxonomy- policy documents, clinical guidance, regulatory data, NGO reports, conference abstracts, institutional repositories, formal/informal, institutional/non-institutional) • Clear guidance on how to report the use of grey literature. • Data in searchable formats – currently, locating relevant information in lengthy government reports can be burdensome, especially when their relevance is uncertain • Reporting standards for the use of grey literature, including source identification and methods of data extraction (which sources, why and how) 	9	8	n/a	This solution was felt to be of high impact. The only reason it is not a 10 is that at time, though time consuming to locate, its value is often limited. However, there is an urgent need for methodological development in this area, particularly in the development of taxonomies of grey literature, methods of sources, extracting data from and using in synthesis.
25	Encourage those who produce/commission reports (grey literature reports) to display an open access license to continue on-line	10	2	n/a	

	Solutions	Impact	Effort	Overlap with WG	Justification (Provided where the WG felt it was important to indicate)
	presence of reports (so pdf isn't lost) and appropriate				
26	Develop open access models to ensure access to all research (e.g. through provisions such as making publications open access after two years of publication; funders covering journal fees to make them open access; initiatives similar to HINARI in health; initiatives where authors can share their publication.	9	10	GPG	
27	Design automatic search functionalities based on PICOS/PICo/SPICE/SPIDER frameworks (e.g. PICO tagging in Cochrane Library) and establish AI learning models connected with literature resources such as databases and websites. Create clear reporting guidance for the use of tools in development of search strategies. Research into the potential risks of these approaches. Guidance for use in settings where access to information specialists is limited.	9	10	WG3	
28	Standardise and harmonise indexing of data (meta-data) and develop common taxonomies, Boolean operators, wildcards and truncation to allow for uniform searching and discoverability of evidence across databases including grey literature. Could include a system similar to MeSH that can be applied across different sectors and databases	9	9	WG2	
29	Obligation on primary researchers to provide findings and details of study design in formats that can be automatically inputted into a living review as well as publication of paper	7	10	na	na
Capability 4. Data extraction and Quality Assessment					
30	Standardise approaches for data extraction to allow for re-use of data across different reviews for optimal resources utilization. The extracted data should be indicated per paper to allow other reviewers to identify what data is extracted and available and what data isn't from the publication.	8	8	n/a	

	Solutions	Impact	Effort	Overlap with WG	Justification (Provided where the WG felt it was important to indicate)
	Other data such as the meta-data and data on diversity, equity and inclusivity could be standardized for all extractions.				
31	Standardize approaches to quality assessment for quantitative and qualitative studies to create uniformity and consistency to allow for the efficient re-use of the data	9	7	n/a	
Capability 5: Methods and processes for synthesizing different types of data					
32	Methods for hybrid synthesis approaches that integrate diverse types of evidence (e.g., qualitative, implementation, economic, contextual), which are especially relevant for complex, cross-sectoral policy questions	8	5	n/a	This solution will provide core guidance for mixed methods synthesis. The impact is scored high as these approaches are especially relevant to answer complex, cross-sectoral policy questions. The effort is rated as medium as development will draw on existing resources such as the Cochrane-Campbell Handbook for QES, therefore requiring relatively low effort.
33	Tools to better assess certainty of the evidence for observational studies	8	6	n/a	Improving these tools will ensure transparent presentation of uncertainty, therefore it received a high-impact rating. There are tools currently available e.g., ROBINS but needs improvement. The effort required for development will therefore be medium.
34	Methods guidance for whether and how to combine studies using different qualitative methods	5	2	n/a	Low effort: There may be some guidance currently available, e.g. approaches for thematic coding and categorizing textual statements.
35	Synthesis decision trees to guide appropriate method selection based on question type, evidence availability, and intended use.	7	6	n/a	High impact: Decision trees will assist synthesis producers by classifying methods based on their purpose.

	Solutions	Impact	Effort	Overlap with WG	Justification (Provided where the WG felt it was important to indicate)
36	Network meta-analysis (NMA)/multiple comparison methods beyond RCTs	8	5	n/a	Different NMA approaches have been developed and therefore will require lower effort to build on the already existing approaches. The impact is scored high because it would allow for more comprehensive incorporation and use of data in NMAs beyond RCTs to inform policies and decisions
37	Cloud-based, real-time synthesis dashboards, enabling collaborative updates by researchers and policymakers.	9	9	n/a	High impact: This is very important to support agile collaboration between researchers and decision-makers, improving the timeliness and usability of syntheses.
38	Guidance for thresholds for updating reviews	4	3	n/a	There are different drivers for updating reviews, with the number of new publications being the most followed. This guidance would consider what should ideally be the minimum requirements for updating reviews. The effort is rated low as we would be building on existing guidance for updating reviews, and would not require much resources, mostly being time. The impact is also rate at 4 as this would not have a significant change in the methods and approaches of evidence synthesis, although it would reduce resource waste through more frequent updates.
39	Methods for quantitative approximation of the level of bias within studies	2	2	n/a	Both impact and effort are rated low. Methods for quantitative bias analysis (QBA)—quantifying the magnitude and direction of bias—can be built upon approaches used for RoB assessments
Capability 6: Varied formats of reporting that suit decisionmaker needs while ensuring that evidence certainty and review updates are transparently communicated.					

	Solutions	Impact	Effort	Overlap with WG	Justification (Provided where the WG felt it was important to indicate)
40	Tools to support a layered approach to disseminating evidence	9	8	n/a	This solution is rated as high impact because disseminating evidence using diverse approaches, including approaches to accommodate variation in contexts and sectors, can improve reach and allow users to interact with evidence without the need for an intermediary, however, significant time resources will be needed to develop the diversity of tools.
41	Methods guidance for development and implementation of co-creation efforts (such as stakeholder engagement)	4	4	n/a	Successful co-creation would have a high impact, when implemented. The guidance is rated as medium impact because it is a useful step on the way. Development effort is also rated as medium, drawing on existing resources such as the Cochrane framework for engagement and involvement of patient, carers, and the public.
42	Online platforms for decision-makers to interact with evidence (e.g., querying specific findings or exploring uncertainty).	9	9	WG 1 and WG5	This platform should provide mechanisms for real-time dissemination of evidence, allowing for continual updates to reports as new evidence emerges, particularly important for living evidence synthesis. High impact: This will ensure transparency in how evidence is applied. High effort: Significant resources will be needed to design the platform with the required functionalities and to ensure evidence is currently updated.
43	Guidelines for plain language summaries for LES	8	3	WG5	High impact: Quality plain language summaries improves decision-makers use of evidence Low effort: What potentially would require substantial effort is dissemination, training and implementation on a global scale of these guidelines

	Solutions	Impact	Effort	Overlap with WG	Justification (Provided where the WG felt it was important to indicate)
44	Guidelines (reporting standard) for diversity, equity and inclusion considerations in LES	5	5	n/a	Medium impact: Some guidance is currently available to guide equity-focused review methods and reporting, but this is primarily oriented to quantitative systematic reviews. There is currently limited knowledge about how review teams can address EDI within qualitative evidence syntheses Medium effort: Can draw upon frameworks such as PROGRESS-Plus
45	Standardized reporting templates and standards for assessing quality of Knowledge Translation products to ensure consistency in presenting evidence certainty	7	5	n/a	High impact: Quality assessment of KT products can determine how effectiveness evidence is used. Medium effort: Methods to evaluate effectiveness of KT interventions currently exist, for example https://www.nccmt.ca/knowledge-repositories/search/132 . Standards development can draw on these existing initiatives.
Capability 7: Quality assurance (QA) for ES					
46	Establish multistep QA processes/systems that enable verification of a review process at different stages. Include standing peer-review groups to evaluate updates and maintain long-term quality of reviews published in a global LES registry or platform, as well as expert review, public comment, and stakeholder feedback to enhance trust in evidence products.	8	5	n/a	The QAs processes/ systems for different stages of the review process are already in place. Efforts will need to focus on making these mainstream, open access and adoptable across sectors. There is also a need to evaluate the impact this has had on the quality of evidence synthesis products
47	Create a global repository of critical appraisal tools that can be applied across sectors and appropriate for different study designs, to improve transparency of LES.	3	3	n/a	As there are efforts already ongoing (https://www.latitudes-network.org/), effort is scored low. Since this is already in place, we would need to evaluate the impact this has had and think about cross sector dissemination. However, we are scoring the impact low as the repository will not necessarily translate into use as these tools are already developed

	Solutions	Impact	Effort	Overlap with WG	Justification (Provided where the WG felt it was important to indicate)
48	Critical appraisal tool for meta-synthesis studies	6	7	n/a	The current tools for meta-synthesis assess the reporting of meta-synthesis, not necessarily their critical appraisal. The development of these tools will improve the rigor of developing meta-syntheses
49	Develop more robust evidence certainty assessment tools for qualitative evidence, building on current frameworks to address its inherent subjectivity and diversity.	8	7	n/a	Tools for assessing certainty of qualitative evidence do exist, however, there is need to harmonise and improve on their robustness given the many differing epistemologies in qualitative research. With this harmonisation, the incorporation of evidence from different qualitative studies into evidence synthesis will significantly improve
50	Develop/harmonise minimum quality standards or framework for different types of LES/synthesis, applicable across sectors to harmonize quality expectations (e.g., consensus panel develops a quality checklist).	9.5	8.5	n/a	A quality framework applicable across synthesis types and sectors would be a game-changer for institutionalization and interoperability. It ensures standardization, credibility, and wider use of evidence. However, it requires significant coordination, global consultation, and consensus-building
Capability 8: Application of approaches across sectors					
51	A unified and comprehensive taxonomy and framework for evidence synthesis	8	3	WG2	A unified taxonomy and framework for evidence synthesis improves transparency, useability and therefore high impact. Effort is not resource intensive as this can possibly be handled through a working group or a community of practice, and work on this is already ongoing (https://wikispore.wmflabs.org/wiki/Evidence_Synthesis_Taxonomy_Initiative)

	Solutions	Impact	Effort	Overlap with WG	Justification (Provided where the WG felt it was important to indicate)
52	Develop a database of approaches and considerations of evidence synthesis across different sectors. From this database, analyze best practices, similarities and differences and utilize these as starting points for cross-sectoral learning	7	4	n/a	The compilation of the of the approaches would require low effort, with the relatively high effort coming in at analysing best practices/ approaches. We have ranked the impact relatively high as this intervention would allow for full database of synthesis approaches in one place to facilitate learning

APPENDIX 2 – ROADMAP INTEGRATION TABLE

This table shows the links between each prioritized solution, the expected outcomes, indicators of success, and solutions proposed by other WGs in Stage 3.

Problem	Solution ¹	Expected outcome ²	Success indicators ³	Synergies ⁴
Decision-makers need evidence quickly when a ‘window of opportunity’ to address a policy issue opens.	#2: Pilot “Evidence Response Teams” trained in agile methods and embedded in key institutions (ministries, NGOs) to deliver syntheses within days/weeks of a request) Type: Project & Process	- Production of evidence synthesis at the same speed as the decision-making process. - Faster and more relevant syntheses.	100% of requests for syntheses from decision-makers in piloted institutions delivered within the timeframe of the request.	Complementarity: WG1: Regional Demand-Side Secretariats WG1: Question Repositories or Banks WG5: Regional collaborating centres with country nodes
An array of evidence synthesis quality assessment tools exists. Use of different tools for assessment of the same studies can result in different estimates of quality.	#50 + #51: Harmonise minimum quality standards or frameworks for different types of LES/synthesis, applicable across sectors to harmonize quality expectations (e.g., consensus panel develops a quality checklist). This will be underpinned by a unified comprehensive taxonomy and framework for evidence syntheses. This will include expansion of existing standards and frameworks to different sectors Type: Process	Uniformity in the application of evidence synthesis quality assessment, regardless of sector or study origination.	- Enhanced methodological rigor, transparency, and replicability in the evidence synthesis process for different types of reviews. - Increase in the number of high-quality LES/synthesis produced.	Dependency: None Complementarity: WG5: Mentorship and Train the Trainer Programs WG5: Competency Frameworks WG5: Continuous Professional Development Modules WG5: Massive Open Online Courses

¹ Type: **Infrastructure**:- tools or technology / platforms, ongoing products. **Process**:- methods; training; learning; sharing; convening. **Projects**:- time-limited activities generating outputs.

² **Expected outcome**: The expected changes or benefits to result from implementing the solution

³ What would **success look like in 12 months**, if the solution was implemented.

⁴ **Dependency**:- development/implementation of the solution is dependent upon another WG solution. **Complementarity**:- the solution is helpful or reinforcing in operation. It will have a symbiotic relationship to solutions from other WGs.

Problem	Solution ¹	Expected outcome ²	Success indicators ³	Synergies ⁴
Need to strengthen capabilities to conduct reviews to answer complex societal questions. These types of questions go beyond effectiveness and require incorporation of multiple types of evidence.	<p>#8 + #7: Incentivize and enhance cross-sectoral learning and collaboration through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Joint funding calls</u> for evidence synthesis for multi-sectoral projects focused on critical policy issues where teams from different sectors would have to collaborate towards a common outcome - Establishing <u>cross-sectoral communities of practice</u> and a global network of multidisciplinary evidence synthesis methodologists to share best practices and facilitate cross-sectoral learning and continuous improvements <p>Type: Process</p>	Increased production of LES that diverse answer questions, applicable to decision-makers across sectors and regions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least one joint funding call for production of an evidence synthesis to address a ‘policy scale question’⁵ - At least one cross-sectoral community of practice established in regions in the Global North and Global South 	<p><u>Joint Funding calls</u></p> <p><u>Complementarity:</u></p> <p>WG 1: Regional Demand-Side Secretariats</p> <p>WG5: Global evidence synthesis Innovation Fund (GESIF)</p> <p>WG5: Funders Forum</p> <p><u>Cross-sectoral communities of practice and a global network of multidisciplinary evidence synthesis methodologists</u></p> <p><u>Complementarity:</u></p> <p>WG1: Implementation Support to Evidence Intermediaries</p> <p>WG1: Evidence Co-design Labs</p> <p>WG5: ESIC Peer-To-Peer Forum</p> <p>W5: ESIC Knowledge Hub</p> <p>WG5: Regional collaborating centres with country nodes</p>
Searching ‘grey literature’ is a methodological ‘gold standard’ in evidence synthesis. It reduces the risk of publication bias. However, ‘Grey literature’ may also have other roles within evidence synthesis, providing valuable sources of evidence where findings are not published. For example, this may occur in emergent fields. The term also covers a very wide and diffuse range of types, including evaluation and government	#24 + #25: Support the integration of grey literature into evidence synthesis including through a package of work including: (1) Develop guidance and recommendations on the types and appropriate use of grey literature for different review questions and contexts. (2) Maintained <u>repositories of relevant grey literature</u> sources. (3) Identify and categorise types of grey literature, using those most appropriate for the review’s purpose – (Taxonomy- policy documents, clinical guidance, regulatory data, NGO reports, conference abstracts,	An agreed, taxonomy of grey literature types that works for all sectors. A repository of grey literature sources that aligns to the agreed taxonomy. Guidance on searching those grey literature sites. Details on access and reporting. Links to tools that can support the automation of location and data extraction from grey literature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Methods Guidance for integration of UN evaluation reports into evidence synthesis developed and operational. - Repository of grey literature sources developed 	<p><u>Method Guidance for integration of UN evaluations:</u></p> <p><u>Dependency:</u> None</p> <p><u>Complementarity:</u></p> <p>WG5: Competency Frameworks</p> <p>WG5: Continuous Professional Development Modules</p> <p>WG5: Massive Open Online Courses</p> <p><u>Repositories of grey literature sources:</u></p> <p><u>Dependency:</u> None</p> <p><u>Complementarity:</u></p> <p>WG1: Demand-Side Secretariats</p> <p>WG1: Implementation Support to Evidence Intermediaries</p>

⁵ A policy scale question relates to complex societal challenges such as the SDGs or climate change.

Problem	Solution ¹	Expected outcome ²	Success indicators ³	Synergies ⁴
<p>reports, registries, social media sources. Many sources are not indexed in ways that lend themselves to search strategies developed for database searching.</p> <p>To summarise the challenges are these:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) ‘Grey literature’ needs to be replaced with a more useful taxonomy 2) Improved reporting standards for use of grey literature for: Clear description of why, what and how grey literature will be used 3) Methods of locating grey literature 4) Methods of extracting data from grey literature 	<p>institutional repositories, formal/informal, institutional/non-institutional). (4) Clear guidance on how to report the use of grey literature. (5) Data in searchable formats – currently, locating relevant information in lengthy government reports can be burdensome, especially when their relevance is uncertain. (6) <u>Reporting standards</u> for the use of grey literature, including source identification and methods of data extraction (which sources, why and how); (7) Encourage those who produce/commission reports (grey literature reports) to display an <u>open access license</u> to continue on-line presence of reports (so pdf isn’t lost) and appropriate.</p> <p>Type: Infrastructure & Process</p>			<p>WG3: AI-DEST WG5: ESIC Knowledge Hub WG5: ESIC Research Gateway</p> <p><u>Taxonomy</u> Complementarity: WG2: Metadata transformation tools to support taxonomy alignment</p> <p><u>Data in searchable formats</u> Complementarity: WG2: Develop standardized record structures for evidence synthesis inputs and outputs.</p> <p><u>Open access license</u> Complementarity: WG5: Consortia-based licensing agreements</p>
<p>Decisions to fund or undertake new evidence synthesis are based on information from evidence gap maps and protocol registries. These sources do not provide real time information on the availability and of conduct of an LSR.</p>	<p>#14: Establish a system/database to monitor ongoing LSRs to avoid duplication of effort.</p> <p>Type: Infrastructure</p>	<p>Reduced duplication, within countries (by different groups), and across countries, in production of LES.</p>	<p>All (100%) protocols for development of an LSR/LES complies with checks of the database.</p>	<p>Complementarity: WG2: Federated repository of living evidence data.</p>
<p>Need to embed co–production in the evidence synthesis development process. Methods to streamline this process will</p>	<p>#19: Establish a global panel of citizen partners, with regional /sub-regional representation. The panel will operationalize the ESIC “Call to Action: Putting evidence at the center of</p>	<p>- Increase in the number of evidence synthesis co-produced with citizens. - Increased production of evidence that meets citizens’ needs.</p>	<p>At least one citizen panel established in one region in the Global North and Global South operational.</p>	<p>Complementarity: WG1: Evidence Co-Design Labs WG3: Evidence Map 2.0 (EM2) WG5: Knowledge Translation AI application (KTai)</p>

Problem	Solution ¹	Expected outcome ²	Success indicators ³	Synergies ⁴
reduce barriers, such as the cost and timeliness of these processes	everyday life of citizens” and strengthen the relationship between citizens and research to facilitate participation in the different phases of synthesis production. Type: Process			
Determining the certainty of review findings is a critical step in the application of findings to policy. Existing methods for certain types of evidence synthesis are currently limited. As the use of evidence synthesis is applied to a wide range of questions, ensuring transparent methods in establishing certainty is necessary.	#33 + #49: Develop and disseminate tools to better assess certainty of the evidence for observational studies, qualitative evidence, and mixed methods studies building on current frameworks to address its inherent subjectivity and diversity. This would address current gaps in such tools. In some cases, e.g. qualitative evidence, the tools exist (e.g. CERQual) but may need better dissemination across sectors. Type: Process	More robust communication to evidence users when evidence is changing/evolving, or when there is evidence uncertainty.	- Revised tools developed and disseminated - Science advisors and evidence intermediaries in at least one country from each region (global north/global south) use revised tools in their communications to decision-makers to clarify what is known from existing evidence and with are the caveats.	WG1: Implementation Support to Evidence Intermediaries WG5: Continuous Professional Development Modules WG5: Mentorship and Train the Trainer Programs
To effectively address the diverse evidence needs of various decision-makers—including policymakers, practitioners, and citizens—customizable tools must be developed. These tools should account for regional variations and be adaptable to meet the specific requirements of different audiences, ensuring informed and context-sensitive decision-making processes.	#40 + #42: Develop/improve tools that support a layered approach to disseminating evidence, including online platforms for decision-makers to interact with evidence (e.g., querying specific findings or exploring uncertainty) Type: Infrastructure	- Decision-makers empowered to make decisions that are both informed by global evidence but tailored to their local contexts.	Evidence intermediaries in at least one country from each region (global north/global south) use improved tools in to support decision makers.	Complementarity: WG1: Demand-Side Secretariats WG1: Implementation Support to Evidence Intermediaries WG5: Knowledge Translation AI (KTai)
There are a wide range of evidence synthesis approaches, and also adaptation of methods to support different types of questions, as well as resources (including time) of commissioning bodies.	#12: <u>Collate, curate and standardise methods</u> to support the appropriate use of evidence synthesis to address policymakers’ needs, through closer working between policymakers and evidence producers and the	Tools that support dialogue with knowledge users and evidence producers to guide the selection of appropriate methods to address priority questions. – with a clear understanding of the strengths and limitations of proposed approaches.	Co-produced toolkit that can support the selection of appropriate methods – taking into account priority questions, timeframes, and resources available to deliver useful* evidence synthesis.	<u>Collate, curate and standardise methods</u> Complementarity: WG5: ESIC Knowledge Hub Modular agile synthesis toolkit

Problem	Solution ¹	Expected outcome ²	Success indicators ³	Synergies ⁴
	development of a <u>modular agile synthesis toolkit</u> . Type: Infrastructure & Process	The approaches will include those that support timely production of evidence. This would comprise an interactive menu of methodological approaches to support the timely and context-specific use of agile evidence synthesis, tailored to different types of questions, levels of urgency, and available resources (i.e. tiered models tailored to different urgency levels and decision-making contexts). It would also include guidance for rapid and living reviews, policy briefs, and evidence summaries tailored to time-sensitive contexts.	*useful: accessible, rigorous, inclusive, transparent	
Living evidence synthesis are one solution to some of the challenges we currently face in the production of useful evidence*. A number of methodological challenges continue to exist in the implementation of LES. While there is already both examples of good practice, and published guidance, there are questions regarding the extent to which they cross sectors. There are also specific gaps identified. These solutions seek to address those. *transparent, rigorous, accessible, inclusive	# 43 + #16 + #18: Methods and tools for translating findings of LES to local contexts and disseminating findings from LES to support evidence use in policy making. Approaches include standardization of approaches to contextualization, developing supports/ data/ models/ frameworks to support. Developing Guidelines for plain language summaries for LES to ensure contextualization can be done, it is important to foreground gender and inclusion in LES methods. This means being sensitive to gender and inclusion in the team composition, the sources of evidence and the data extracted from the evidence.	Extended methodological guidance for LES, which includes ways in which these types of outputs can have global relevance by being (where necessary) contextualized to specific contexts.	Methodological innovation and guidance for contextualisation of evidence. Methodological innovation and guidance for inclusion of non-RCT evidence in LES Methodological innovation and guidance for producing plain language summaries from LESs	Complementarity: WG1: Implementation Support to Evidence Intermediaries WG5: Competency Frameworks WG5: Continuous Professional Development Modules WG5: Massive Open Online Courses WG5: Regional collaborating centres with country nodes WG5: knowledge Translation I (KTai)

Problem	Solution ¹	Expected outcome ²	Success indicators ³	Synergies ⁴
	Guidance and examples of how non-RCT data is incorporated into LES's. Type: Infrastructure & Process			
There are existing structures and methods in place to support evidence synthesis. Transformative change should not 'reinvent the wheel' by dismantling existing structures but rather strengthening some of those developments.	#5 + #10: -Building an Academy for Evidence Synthesis . It can become a central hub for building capacity globally. -Maintain and strengthen existing foundations of quality and rigour for evidence synthesis through continuous funding to key organisations. Type: Infrastructure & Process	Evidence synthesis producers worldwide benefit from state-of-the-art training in methodologies. Innovations are not fragmented across sectors and geographies but harmonized and agreed. There is a need to recognise that not all evidence synthesis is designed to support policy decisions. Evidence synthesis is a methodology often used to form foundational work for PhDs, research programmes and as part of academic development. We need to avoid a 2-tier system developing and recognise the value of evidence synthesis to support other purposes.	Funding to support key infrastructure that can harmonize methods across sectors and geographical boundaries.	Academy for Evidence Synthesis Complementarity: WG5: Regional collaborating centers with country nodes WG5: Mentorship and Train the Trainer Programs